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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

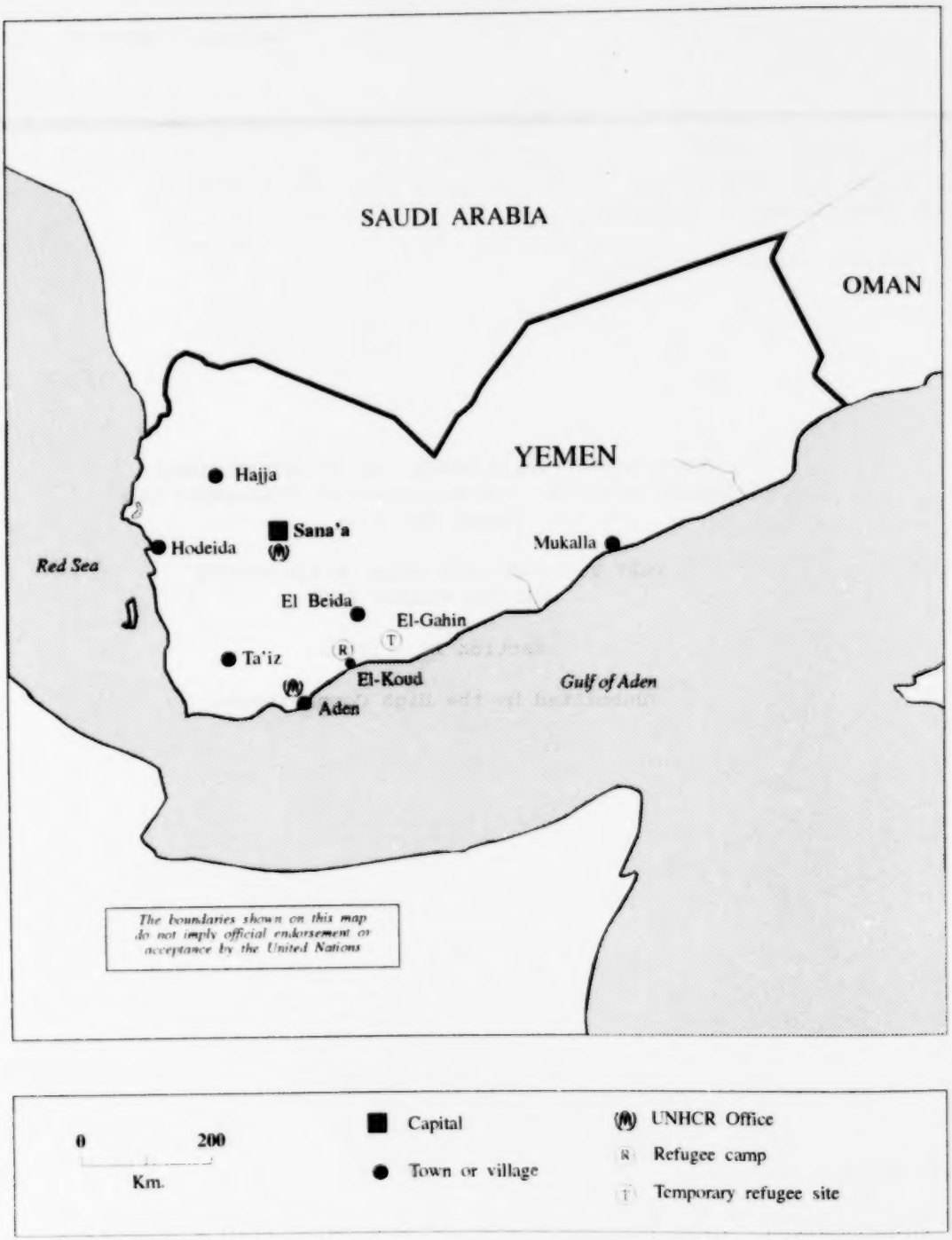
PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 10 - Yemen

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02352

YEMEN


SAUDI ARABIA
OMAN
YEMEN
Hajja
Sana'a
Hodeida
Mukalla
Red Sea
El Beida
El-Gahin
Ta'iz
El-Koud
Aden
Gulf of Aden
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
200
Km.
Capital
Town or village
UNHCR Office
Refugee camp
Temporary refugee site

V.10 YEMEN

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Yemen hosted 46,050 refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR, of which 10,600 Somalis and 750 Ethiopians benefited from assistance. In addition, 1,500 Eritreans were being considered for voluntary repatriation, 700 Palestinians had been economically integrated and 25,500 Somalis of Yemeni origin were waiting for the finalization of their legal status. UNHCR was also covering the medical and social needs of some 7,000 Somalis in need of humanitarian assistance; they are part of a larger group of Somalis of diverse status who live in Yemen, where they had come before the civil war began in Somalia.

2. By the end of April 1995, over 1,800 new Somali arrivals were registered jointly by the Government and UNHCR. Following the destruction of El Koud Camp during the civil war, 6,000 Somalis were relocated to the new camp at El Gahin. The remainder live mainly in Aden and Sana'a. The caseload comprises 55 per cent women, 25 per cent children and 20 per cent men.

3. The above are estimated figures only since the constant movement of the refugee population makes accurate registration very difficult.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. Following the outbreak of hostilities in May 1994, the regular delivery of assistance to refugees was disrupted. The civil war caused the dispersal of most of the Somali refugees from the camp into cities.

5. The 1994 transfer of refugees to El Gahin camp and the purchase of relief items resulted in unexpected additional requirements of $ 140,000, which were allocated from the 1994 Programme Reserve.

6. In July and August of 1994, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR repatriated 715 Somali refugees from Aden to Berbera in North-West Somalia.

7. The rapid deterioration of the economy in Yemen after the civil war led to high inflation and greatly reduced opportunities for achieving self-sufficiency through local employment. Refugees consequently tended to become more dependent on UNHCR assistance. Economic pressures compelled the Government to withdraw its food support to the 175 refugees from the former Ethiopian navy in Najid Kassem Camp.

8. In early 1995, UNHCR attempted to negotiate the reconstruction of El Koud Camp so that a transit centre could be established for the voluntary repatriation of Somalis. The resumption of the conflict in North-West Somalia in April 1995 and the withdrawal from Somalia of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) greatly reduced the possibility of voluntary repatriation occurring. Negotiations with the authorities, also in April 1995, led to the identification of a new site

at Karn Amklasi near Shuqrah in Southern Yemen. The Government and UNHCR plan to conduct a joint feasibility study before construction of the new camp begins.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

9. By 1996, the refugees will have been relocated from El Gahin and Aden to the new camp at Karn Amklasi. All destitute urban Somali refugees and Ethiopian refugees who cannot be repatriated will be regrouped in the camp. Following this transfer, and until repatriation can take place, UNHCR's objective will be to develop a more permanent infrastructure including health, shelter, schools as well as medical and water services. Refugees will be encouraged to undertake activities to promote self-reliance. The regrouping of refugees in a single site will also enable UNHCR to sensitize both Somali and Ethiopian refugees to the possibilities and prospects of voluntary repatriation.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

10. **Care and maintenance**: Most assistance activities that will be undertaken at the end of 1995 will be focused on establishing the new camp at Karn Amklasi. In 1996, activities will be concentrated mostly on providing cost-effective, life-sustaining and life-enhancing services, as well as on encouraging refugees to become self-reliant. Priority will be given to ensuring that the infrastructure for basic services which began in the last half of 1995 is successfully completed. Thereafter, schools, community development and reafforestation will be developed with UNHCR funds that may possibly be augmented by non-governmental organization (NGO) support, other United Nations agencies and local donors. Assistance will aim at supporting income-generation activities such as crop production, fishing and other micro-projects to enhance the possibility of self-sufficiency and to improve prospects for local economic integration. The 1996 initial allocation is proposed at the same level as the 1995 allocation but may have to be revised after the refugees have been relocated in the new camp.

11. A smaller-scale urban care and maintenance project will be maintained in 1996 to cover individual cases and medical referrals and to provide continued health assistance and community health programmes for the urban caseload.

12. **Voluntary repatriation**: It is expected that by the end of 1995, the majority of Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees will have repatriated. Those remaining will be assisted to repatriate in 1996. To fund this operation, an allocation will be requested from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation.

(ii) Special Programmes

13. From January to April 1995, 20 Somali refugees were assisted to repatriate. If security improves, the allocation made available in 1995 under Emergency Operations in the Horn of Africa may be reallocated in 1996 to fund further voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees.

14. Twenty Somali refugee students benefited from the German Albert Einstein Refugee Academic Initiative (DAFI) scholarships during the 1994-1995 academic year. Five students are expected to graduate in September 1995 and the scholarships of the remaining 15 will be extended into the 1995-1996 academic year.

(c) Implementing partners

15. CARE-Australia has been assisting in the implementation of the care and maintenance programme for Somali refugees. In 1995, following the phasing out of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), CARE was entrusted with the implementation of the Health Sector in addition to camp management and maintenance.

16. The International Cooperation for Development (ICD) will continue providing medical and nursing services to the urban caseload in Sana'a.

17. All implementation costs incurred by these two NGOs are fully covered by UNHCR. In 1996, ICD and CARE will be encouraged to contribute some of their resources to project implementation. Attempts will also be made to involve some experienced local NGOs whose implementation costs are lower than those of international NGOs.

18. UNHCR will directly implement the voluntary repatriation programme for Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees.

19. In compliance with the UNHCR - WFP Memorandum of Understanding, WFP will be responsible for providing basic food and for its transportation to Extended Delivery Points.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

20. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditures (all sources of funds)

21. The 1994 expenditure was higher than the revised estimates for several reasons. For several weeks during the civil war, most UNHCR international staff were evacuated to neighbouring countries. Following the cessation of hostilities, but still during the emergency, several additional staff were sent on mission to support the core staff. During the fighting, Sub-Office Aden was looted and almost all of its furniture and equipment vandalized. The office had to be temporarily

relocated to a safer area and re-equipped with new computers and telecommunications equipment. Because of the dangerous security situation, a United Nations Field Security Officer post was created; its cost is shared between United Nations agencies in Yemen.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

22. The revised 1995 requirements are lower than the initial estimates due to the discontinuation of the post of Programme Officer in Sana'a. However, two local posts were also created: a Field Assistant to monitor programme activities and improve the presence of UNHCR in El Gahin Camp, and a Radio Operator to improve communications between the Branch Office in Sana'a and the Sub-Office in Aden and to establish communications with the new camp in Karn Amklasi. Under joint United Nations activities, cost-sharing of the post of Field Security Officer is being continued.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

23. The initial 1996 requirements will be slightly lower than the revised 1995 requirements. The staffing structure will be maintained throughout the year and all time-limited posts have been extended until 31 December 1996. No changes are therefore expected under salaries and common staff costs. Requirements under acquisition of furniture and equipment are lower than the revised 1995 requirements because most of the equipment looted during the war will have been replaced in 1995. It is foreseen, however, to improve security measures for the offices because of continuing security problems. It will also be necessary to replace some of the old equipment and vehicles damaged during the war.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN YEMEN

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
1,415.5	1,253.7	1,253.7	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	1,253.7
7.5	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
3.1 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
5.6 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
1,370.2	1,178.0	1,071.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,036.4
2,801.9	**2,431.7**	**2,325.1**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**2,290.1**
139.2	97.7	95.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	95.9
2,941.1	**2,529.4**	**2,421.0**	**TOTAL (1)**	**2,386.0**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
78.5	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	–
330.0	–	600.0	HORN OF AFRICA	–
–	–	20.5	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	20.5
408.5	**0.0**	**620.5**	**TOTAL (2)**	**20.5**
3,349.6	**2,529.4**	**3,041.5**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**2,406.5**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes